Harassment of foreign tourists

†1606. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign tourists who are visiting the country is decreasing due to teasing and harassment incidents with them;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the number of such incidents which occurred in the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) No, Sir. The foreign tourist arrivals to India during 2005 reached the level of 3.91 million and registered a growth of 13.2% over 2004.

(b) and (c) As Safety and Security is a State subject, data on incidents of teasing and harassment of tourists is not compiled by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. However, in order to curb cases of cheating, fleecing, teasing and harassment of tourists, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has advised all State Governments and Union Territories to deploy tourist police at all important tourist centres/destinations.

Encroachment of land around monuments

†1607. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Archaeological Survey of India as well as other concerned departments are not able to check the encroachment on the monuments and places protected as historical, archaeological and heritage sites in the country as a result of which encroachment on land around such monuments/places is going on unabated;

(b) whether due to lack of coordination between Archaeological and Cultural Departments of concerned States and ASI, it is not being possible to stop such encroachments and to take action against the encroachers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir. All possible steps are taken by the Archaeological

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.